



LGAZ NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 2 -2025

SPECIAL 2025 CONFERENCE EDITION

22nd AMICAALL
General Assembly

2025

zanaco

mco
& Affordable

NATSAVE

HITACHI

Reliable solutions

MTN

NNORAY
Innovation for Energy

AUTOFIN
agri



Joint 69th Annual Conference

"The national voice for Local Government"

Table of Contents

DISCLAIMER.....	2
PRESIDENT HICHILEMA CALLS FOR BOLD INNOVATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING	3
WINNERS OF THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS	11
CITY COUNCIL CATEGORY	13
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CATEGORY	15
TOWN COUNCIL CATEGORY	18
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY (WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS)....	21
JOINT 69TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LGAZ AND 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AMICAALL IMMEDIATE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES	22
AMICAALL SECTION	24
NOW RESOLVE THAT:	26
PHOTO FOCUS.....	27



EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms. Mpatanji Namumba
Mr. Abraham Moobola
Ms. Josephine Kapinga



“The Republican President of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema addressing delegates during the Joint 69th Annual Conference of LGAZ and 22nd General Assembly of AMICAALL at Ciela Resort”



PRESIDENT HICHILEMA CALLS FOR BOLD INNOVATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING

President of the Republic of Zambia His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, has reaffirmed his administration's full commitment to fiscal decentralisation, strengthening local authorities through capacity-building programmes and fostering accountability at all levels. The President said this when he officially opened the Joint 69th Annual Conference of the Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) and the 22nd General Assembly of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) on 23rd July 2025 at the Lusaka International Convention Centre, Ciela Resort.

The President emphasized the importance of upholding a culture of integrity and community service before self, urging local leaders to fight corruption, promote transparency, and ensure that governance structures deliver real benefits to the people.

"The strength of local government is the strength of central government. If you succeed, we succeed," President Hichilema stated.

Held under the theme ***"Innovative Municipal Financing and Service Delivery: Pathways for Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Development"***, the Conference reflected on the collective resolve of Government, local authorities, and partners to confront the persistent challenges of financing and service delivery through sustainable and inclusive solutions.

The Head of State called on local authorities to not only make full and effective use of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocations but also to be bold in exploring innovative revenue sources that can strengthen service delivery and fiscal independence.

He stressed the need for municipalities to move beyond traditional sources of income, noting

that overtaxing the limited existing sources such as property rates would compromise their ability to maximise collections. To this effect, he called upon local authorities to make property rates fairer as a way of improving compliance and collection efficiency.

The President further assured delegates that the ongoing reviews of the Rating Act and the adoption of digital tools aim to establish a more equitable and efficient property rate system, one designed to reduce undue burdens on businesses while enhancing municipal performance.

The President also urged local authorities to broaden their revenue base by leveraging the natural and economic potential each locality possessed. This includes smarter land management, embracing digital solutions, and forming joint ventures that bring real value to our people.

'Let us prudently plan and manage our resource and economic potentials because if properly utilised, this would to a large extent enhance own source revenue,' he said. To this effect he called upon the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to convene a consultative meeting with traditional leadership and LGAZ representatives among

other stakeholders to discuss this matter further. He added that government was working on establishing economic zones in all parts of the country as a way of developing the economic potential of the country wholistically.

The President called upon Secretary to the Cabinet and other key offices involved in determining the allocation of national resources to ensure that more resources are retained at the local level and urged local authorities to prudently utilise and account for such resources,

The President also called for teamwork between Mayors, Council Chairpersons, Members of Parliament and District Commissioners because they were all working for a common good to serve the people of the country and as such squabbles should be avoided as all costs as they had the potential to retard development.

The President further called for all key players in national development to support progressive constitutional amendments such as women participation, which was key to sustainable development and that being the case, there was need to sanitize politics by creating a conducive environment for women participation in politics and other key decision-making positions



Delegates following the proceedings of the official opening



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Hon. Gift Sialubalo presenting his speech during the Conference

Speaking earlier, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Gift S. Sialubalo, MP, reiterated Government's commitment to strengthening local governance through collaborative reform efforts under the Decentralisation Programme.

"This is your moment. You are at the heart of Zambia's transformation. Lead it with integrity, innovation, and urgency."

In his address, LGAZ President, Cllr. Vincent Lilanda expressed gratitude to the Head of State for consistently gracing the Association's gatherings and reaffirmed the Association's commitment to advancing a responsive and accountable local government system.

Cllr. Lilanda underscored the importance of unity of purpose among local authorities, describing it as ***"an antidote essential for results-based leadership which our communities so desire."*** He highlighted the need for tailor-made capacity-building programmes for councils, observing that a ***"one-size-fits-all"*** approach is not always effective in responding to the unique challenges of different municipalities.

He further commended Government's efforts

in the implementation of the National Decentralisation Policy, particularly through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which he said had enabled communities to determine their own development priorities. However, he called for the strengthening of Ward Development Committees to ensure greater accountability and public participation in development.

Cllr. Lilanda also welcomed the finalisation of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture (IFA) 2023–2027, describing it as a comprehensive framework that will secure predictable fiscal arrangements and accelerate devolution once fully implemented.

He further stressed the urgent need to strengthen own-source revenues for local authorities by aligning subsidiary legislation with constitutional provisions on local government.

He also reiterated the Association's call for improved conditions of service for elected officials and principal officers considering the increased responsibilities arising from devolution and the expanded CDF scope as an example.



Cllr. Lilanda highlighted the Association's work towards promoting gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), which had resulted in the Association effecting amendments to its constitution to guarantee women's participation in all decision-making processes. He urged member councils to embrace similar inclusive approaches in their own operations.

He also pointed out the Association's commitment to climate action by stating that the 2025 Joint Conference was conducted as a paperless event in line with its green agenda adding that **"challenges associated with climate change will be won or lost at the local level."** he stressed. He accordingly called on government to fully involve local authorities in national climate change initiatives.

Cllr. Lilanda commended the 116 local authorities for their dedication to serving communities, despite the operational challenges they faced. He also thanked the cooperating partners for their invaluable support and the sister associations from the Southern African region for their solidarity. He paid glowing tribute to President Hichilema as **"a beacon of hope for a strengthened, responsive, and accountable local government system."**

Meanwhile, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Ms. Beatrice Mutali commended LGAZ and AMICAALL for their leadership in convening the conference



LGAZ President Councillor Vincent Lilanda addressing delegates during the Conference

and for prioritizing issues such as climate change, HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, gender equality, and disaster risk preparedness. She noted that this foresight had elevated recognition of the critical role of local government in driving sustainable local economic development.

Ms. Mutali highlighted LGAZ's leadership in mainstreaming SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) into its structures and practices, describing it as a strong example of aligning local governance with global development goals.

In terms of the 2025 Global AIDS Update, she cautioned that Zambia's progress in the HIV response could be undermined by global financing challenges if not properly handled, stressing the importance of innovative domestic financing to sustain momentum toward ending AIDS by 2030. She said this urgency clearly aligned with the conference theme calling on local authorities to take a front-line role in delivering transformative, people-centred services.

She acknowledged Zambia's strides in decentralization and urged LGAZ and AMICAALL to continue guiding conversations on sustainable financing and devolved authority within the forthcoming 9th National Development Plan (9NDP). While commending government reforms, including the revised HIV decentralization policy and enhanced Constituency Development Fund (CDF), she

emphasized that these efforts must translate into real, tangible improvements in people's lives.

Ms. Mutali reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting decentralization, local leadership, and innovative financing adding that ***"through strengthened collaboration, Zambia's cities, municipalities, and towns can become shining examples of good governance, inclusivity, and resilience in the face of today and tomorrow's challenges,"*** she affirmed.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the German Embassy, Mr. Akbar Mohabat, GLZ-CitiZen+D Programme Coordinator, reaffirmed Germany's longstanding commitment to Zambia as a trusted partner in international cooperation. He emphasized the shared values between the two nations as vibrant democracies, where governments remain accountable to the people and subject to the rule of law.

Mr. Mohabat indicated that during the recent government-to-government negotiations held in September 2024, Germany pledged €108 million (approximately K3.14 billion) to Zambia, underscoring its dedication to supporting the country's transformative agenda. Of this, €10.7 million (over K300 million) was earmarked for the Decentralization for Development (D4D) programme, which had supported some councils Southern and Luapula Provinces to launch 32



Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), boost local revenue generation, and strengthen citizen participation.

The German Development Bank (KfW) also committed €47 million (about K1.4 billion) to finance infrastructure projects in medium-sized municipalities in Southern Province, directly responding to priorities identified in their IDPs.

While commending Zambia's progress, Mr. Mohabat stressed that decentralization was a long-term reform that demanded consistency, integration, and persistence adding that lessons learned from three years of implementing the expanded Constituency Development Fund (CDF) should be taken into account to inform decision-making, ensuring that functions and corresponding resources are devolved closer to local authorities, the level closest to citizens.

He also underscored the importance of transparent, merit-based public service reforms, noting that qualified

and motivated staff were key to effective local service delivery. In particular, he cautioned against the frequent transfer of staff as it undermined institutional capacity and led to capacity gaps in certain areas.

Finally, Mr. Mohabat introduced the new CitiZen+D programme, launched in April 2025 and designed to strengthen planning capacities of selected cities for climate- and people-friendly urbanisation and decentralization. The programme focuses on improving local area planning, particularly in unplanned settlements, with integrated services such as solid waste management, access to water and road infrastructure.

The Head of Office at the Canadian High Commission, Ms. Corry Van Gaal, reaffirmed Canada's unwavering commitment to gender equality, inclusive governance, and women's political leadership in Zambia. She highlighted Canada's sustained efforts to strengthen the participation

and capacity of women in local government, noting that these initiatives were crucial to inclusive, responsive, and accountable municipal governance.

Ms. Van Gaal drew attention to the new Call for Proposals under the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), launched on 1st July 2025 during Canada's National Day celebrations. Through this initiative, a total of K1,500,000 will be allocated to 10 community projects, implemented by small teams of female Mayors, Council Chairpersons, Councillors, and aspiring women civic leaders across the country. She emphasized that this initiative was designed not only to provide funding but also to empower women to implement innovative, community-driven solutions that directly address local development challenges.

She also highlighted Canada's broader support through the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project, launched in 2022.

Implemented by LGAZ in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), PMI-WILL represents a \$6.75 million Canadian dollar investment by Global Affairs Canada. The project provides women with training, mentorship, and technical assistance, building the skills, confidence, and networks necessary to participate effectively as leaders and decision-makers in local government. Ms. Van Gaal stressed that PMI-WILL has already enhanced the capacities of female leaders to influence policy, advance gender-responsive planning, and lead inclusive governance reforms.

Ms. Van Gaal noted that Canada's engagement is multi-layered, combining capacity building with practical support through funding mechanisms like CFLI. She emphasized that these opportunities were designed to ensure that women not only receive training but are also equipped to translate their learning into actionable community projects, creating



Head of the the Canadian Office High Commission, Ms. Corry Van Gaal presenting her speech during the Conference.



tangible benefits for their constituencies.

"We encourage aspiring female politicians to seize this opportunity. With the skills, mentorship, and financial support provided, you can drive meaningful change, strengthen local governance, and inspire other women to take up leadership roles in their communities," she said.

She reaffirmed Canada's long-standing partnership with Zambia, highlighting that investments in women's political leadership are investments in stronger, more equitable local governance stating that empowering women leaders was critical to achieving inclusive development and ensuring that municipal governments were responsive to the diverse needs of all citizens.

Speaking earlier, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Cllr. Bheke Sitofile, emphasised the critical role of local and regional governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted that for countries in the Global South, particularly in Africa, localising the SDGs was not merely technical but a strategic necessity that ensured global goals translate into tangible improvements in the

lives of ordinary citizens.

Cllr. Sitofile stated that South Africa's local government system was constitutionally established, with municipalities serving as hubs for local economic development, spatial planning and essential service delivery, all critical for achieving the SDGs. He underscored the importance of integrating global commitments into local development frameworks, aligning SDGs with municipal performance management, Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), and spatial development frameworks. South Africa's "One Plan" approach through the District Development Model (DDM) exemplified this alignment, fostering harmonized planning across government spheres. To this effect, SALGA had played a key role in capacity development, peer learning, and mainstreaming SDG targets into municipal planning, while also engaging international partners through forums such as the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) a world body, BRICS+, and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) which is a regional body.

Despite these efforts, Cllr. Sitofile acknowledged significant structural challenges faced by municipalities in the Global South



citing fiscal constraints, rising municipal debt, declining revenue, unfunded mandates, and capacity limitations, particularly in rural areas which remained major obstacles. He further noted that fragmented intergovernmental planning, poor coordination, and limited access to local development finance often hindered effective service delivery. Policy reforms not well-aligned with cooperative governance principles were also cited as challenges that could inadvertently undermine local governments' autonomy and developmental mandate.

To unlock the developmental potential of local government, Cllr. Sitofile called for a new paradigm prioritizing implementation, innovation, and monitoring at the local level taking the following into account:

- Reforming intergovernmental finance systems to allocate funding by function and empower cities to generate and retain their own revenue.
- Exploring Inclusive partnerships with businesses, civil society, communities, and traditional leaders to co-create sustainable solutions.

- Engagement with the financial sector, including banks, insurers, and revenue authorities, to enhance municipal creditworthiness and mobilize investment for infrastructure and services.
- Strengthening municipal information systems to collect and analyse local data, enabling evidence-based decision-making and tracking progress toward the SDGs.

He stressed that subnational governments were not merely delivery mechanisms but transformative institutions. He therefore, urged countries in the Global South to lead in creating inclusive, sustainable, and people-centered local governance models, reinforced by international solidarity, targeted financial support, and adherence to the principle of subsidiarity. The resilience of regional and local institutions, he asserted, would determine the future trajectory of the SDGs and as such, urgent action was needed to strengthen these institutions.

**South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA)
President Cllr. Bheke Sitofile addressing the Conference**



WINNERS OF THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS



category recognised First, Second, and Third Prize winners, ensuring equity and broader participation by allowing local authorities to compete on a level playing field in line with their status and capacities.

Further, five (5) individual awards were conferred on exceptional women leaders, highlighting their transformative role in advancing gender equality and local development.

The 2025 Local Government Awards for Excellence celebrated the outstanding contributions of local authorities and women leaders in driving innovation, accountability, and inclusive service delivery across the country.

Nine (9) institutional awards were presented, three each under the categories of Cities, Municipalities, and Town Councils. Each

Presenting the awards, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Gift Sialubalo, MP, hailed the initiative as a platform that not only recognised outstanding performance but also inspired excellence across the local government system.

"It is a great privilege to stand before you this evening as we come together to honour





and celebrate the vital role that the local government system plays in shaping our nation's development and democratic governance," Hon. Sialubalo said.

He noted that the 2025 Awards attracted unprecedented interest, with 36 entries submitted: 21 from 18 local authorities and 15 under the Women in Local Government category.

"This notable increase in participation underscored the growing appetite for innovation and excellence in local governance," the Minister observed.

"These awards are not an end in themselves, but a platform through which we amplify best practices, showcase progress, and encourage peer learning. They demonstrate that local authorities are not merely administrative units, but engines of innovation, capable of designing and implementing solutions that respond directly to the needs of the people."

He further highlighted that most submissions reflected creativity in areas such as digital governance, climate resilience, water and sanitation, youth engagement, inclusive planning, and gender equality.

Particularly, the Women in Local Government

category stood out for spotlighting female leaders driving impact at the frontlines of governance.

"We are especially encouraged by the focus on community ownership, financial sustainability, and evidence-based programming across many of the projects submitted. These are the traits of institutions preparing not just for today's challenges, but also for tomorrow's opportunities," Hon. Sialubalo stated.

He also commended the adjudication panel for their professionalism and applauded all participants, regardless of the outcome.

"Whether awarded or not, your participation is a testament to your commitment to excellence and continuous improvement," he stressed.

The Minister congratulated all the winners and called on them to scale their innovations and share best practices with others.

"Let us carry forward a renewed commitment to excellence, collaboration, and innovation in local governance, because when local government delivers, development becomes real, tangible, and inclusive," he said.

CITY COUNCIL CATEGORY



Chipata City Council pose for a photo after scooping first prize under City Council category

Under the City Category, Chipata City Council scooped the First Prize with a submission on the successful implementation and integration of the Cloudpay Platform with Savannacom, a licensed payment aggregator. For this innovation, the Council walked away with a cash prize of K40,000.

The innovation enabled residents to conveniently and securely pay for all types of municipal services via mobile money (MTN, Airtel, and Zamtel) using a simple USSD code (*4466#), with payments processed in real time.

Cloudpay served as a bridge between the Local Government Integrated Information System (LGIS) and multiple digital payment channels, ensuring instant reconciliation, transparency, and efficiency. Beyond mobile money, it accepted payments from commercial banks, the

Government Service Bus (GSB), and other aggregators such as Probase and Techpay, enhancing both financial inclusion and operational flexibility.

The system eliminated manual reconciliation errors, revenue leakages, and service delays by treating each aggregator as a **"virtual cashier,"** providing citizens with instant receipts, audit trails, and real-time feedback.

Aligned with the LGAZ Awards evaluation criteria, the initiative addressed key themes of enhancing own-source revenue, promoting inclusive governance, leveraging technology, and improving service efficiency. It also clearly aligned with the country's broader agenda of cashless governance, transparency, and expanded service accessibility.

Chipata City Council's roadmap included further integration with financial

providers, advanced analytics for decision-making, and use of machine learning to prevent fraud, positioning the Council as a leader in digital transformation and a model for other local authorities nationwide.

Lusaka City Council scooped the second prize for its innovation "Celebrating Freedom Using Traditional Sports with the Elderly of Mandevu Community", walking away with a cash award of K35,000.

The initiative, implemented at Mandevu Youth Project, engaged 30 elderly men and women in indigenous games such as Nsolo, Ciato, and Game as part of commemorations for African Freedom Day 2025 under the theme **"Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations"**.

The programme sought to improve physical and mental well-being, combat isolation, preserve cultural heritage, and foster intergenerational exchange between the elderly and youth. In addition to sports, participants also benefited from health awareness sessions on prostate and cervical cancer, as well as dementia.

By blending cultural celebration with wellness, the innovation highlighted how traditional games can unite communities, promote inclusivity, and recognize the elderly as active contributors to Zambia's development and heritage preservation.



Lusaka City Council pose for a photo after scooping second prize under City Council category

Kitwe City Council scooped the third prize under the City Category and was awarded K30,000 for its innovative Waste Management Dashboard, a visual tool that consolidated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor, analyze, and improve service delivery under the Department of Public Health.

Introduced in 2023, the dashboard enabled real-time tracking of waste management performance, helping to identify trends, enhanced decision-making, and improved efficiency in collection and service delivery. Its objectives included strengthening decision-making and performance monitoring, increasing collection efficiency, identifying trends and illegal dumpsites, as well as enhancing communication and collaboration between service providers and communities.

Kitwe City Council managed waste in the central business district and markets, while small and medium enterprises, cooperatives, and franchise companies were subcontracted to service residential areas. With 32 wards and 74 service zones, efficiency was assessed monthly by analysing subscriptions, waste volumes, illegal dumpsites, sensitization, and enforcement.

The key activities undertaken included systematic data collection from service providers, monitoring of illegal dumpsites, waste collection, transportation and disposal, community engagement to gather feedback, and dissemination of public information. Having demonstrated clear benefits in the Public Health Department, the Council was now working to scale up the dashboard to other departments such as Housing, Social Services, and Development Planning.



Kitwe City Council pose for a photo after scooping third prize under City Council category



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CATEGORY

Under the Municipal Councils Category, Solwezi Municipal Council won First Prize for its innovation, ***“Improving Township Roads through a Public-Private Infrastructure Partnership.”*** The Council walked away with cash price of K35,000.

In partnership with Kansanshi Mining Plc, the Council upgraded 24.17 kilometres of township roads between 2018 and 2025, turning deteriorated routes into climate-resilient, accessible infrastructure. This initiative has

set a strong precedent for other municipalities across the country.

The project was driven by priorities identified during Integrated Development Plan (IDP) consultations, where residents highlighted the poor state of township roads as a pressing concern. By leveraging a public-private partnership, the Council addressed this critical infrastructure gap while ensuring active community participation and feedback.

This award-winning initiative demonstrated the power of collaboration between local authorities, the private sector, and communities in advancing sustainable urban development.

Kalulushi Municipal Council was awarded Second Prize with a cash prize of K30,000 for its innovative initiative, **"ISEEDI Project: Response to Pandemics and Natural Disasters."**

The project provided leadership for a coordinated, multisectoral response to pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, TB, cholera, and natural disasters including floods. Recognizing that a healthy community was fundamental to development, the Council had designed the ISEEDI model to systematically mitigate health threats that hindered social and economic progress.

Kalulushi, a district of 142,273 people in the Copperbelt Province, faces high HIV prevalence (12.8%) and a significant adolescent population (35,683 aged 10–24 years). The Council identified social norms, economic status, and environmental factors

as major hindrances to inclusive governance and development. ISEEDI collected, analysed, ranked, and compared these factors to design targeted interventions that promoted good health, resilience, and productivity across the district.

This initiative reflected the Council's commitment to sustaining community health programs, including HIV prevention, gender-based violence prevention, climate change mitigation, and support for vulnerable children, even amid declining donor funding. Through ISEEDI, Kalulushi Municipal Council demonstrated a proactive, innovative approach to safeguarding public health while enabling sustainable local development.

The third prize was awarded to Chililabombwe Municipal Council for its innovative **"Pave Chililabombwe Project"** under the theme: Delivery of Cost-Effective and Environmentally Friendly Infrastructure for Socio-Economic Development. The Council was awarded K25,000.

Chililabombwe Municipal Council pose for a photo after scooping third prize under the Municipal Council category



The project focused on rehabilitating dilapidated roads within the Central Business District (CBD) and selected township areas using durable, cost-effective paving blocks, replacing traditional asphalt. This initiative enhanced road safety, traffic flow, urban aesthetics, and reduced dust pollution, while creating local economic opportunities for contractors, youth, and women.

Directly benefiting over 80,000 residents, the project had improved accessibility for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and vulnerable groups, reduced commuter travel time by 30% and boosting vendor traffic by 40%. Its hybrid

funding model combines locally generated resources and government sector grants, while a participatory, community-driven approach ensures inclusivity, ownership, and sustainability.

The Pave Chililabombwe Project had revitalized local businesses, fostered social cohesion, and equipped youths with practical skills in the construction sector. By providing a reliable, safe, and economically empowering road network, the project demonstrates the transformative power of strategic infrastructure in driving socio-economic development and improving the quality of life for residents.



Solwezi Municipal Council pose for a photo after receiving the first prize under Municipal Council category. Let this one go up then the one up comes down

TOWN COUNCIL CATEGORY

Under the Town Council Category, Sinazongwe Town Council scooped the First Prize with a cash award of K30,000 for its innovative project: **"Climate-Smart Water Reticulation: A Local Innovation in Sinazongwe."**

Faced with limited access to safe water, particularly in drought-prone and remote areas, the Council adapted a solar-powered water reticulation model across 12 wards, targeting schools, clinics, and surrounding communities. Funded through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the initiative engaged residents through Ward Development Committees, ensuring local participation in planning, implementation, and maintenance.

The project had significantly reduced waterborne illnesses, improved school attendance, especially for girls, and lessened the burden on women and children who previously travelled long distances to fetch water. With fully solar-powered and cost-effective, the system provided sustainable, climate-resilient water access while fostering community ownership.

Sinazongwe's approach demonstrated that innovation was not always about invention but smart adaptation. By combining proven technology with participatory governance and local financing, the Council had delivered a replicable model for other districts facing similar climatic and resource challenges, transforming lives and promoting sustainable, inclusive service delivery.

Mwandi Town Council won Second Prize for its innovative Simungoma Water Reticulation Project, receiving a cash award of K25,000. Funded through the 2024 Constituency Development Fund, the project was designed to extract water from the Zambezi River using a solar-powered pump, transporting it over 8 kilometers to an 87,000-litre storage tank. The water was then distributed via a 17-kilometer pipeline network to the local community and treated through online chlorinators to ensure safety.

The project provided clean water to approximately 1,600 residents, including 559 pupils across two schools and patients at the Simungoma Health Post, the only health facility



Sinazongwe Town Council jubilates after scooping first prize under the Town Council category..



Mwandi Town Council receives their award after scooping second prize under the Town Council category

in the ward. By reducing reliance on boreholes in areas with saline underground water, the initiative was both cost-effective and time-efficient, having been completed within five months at a total cost of K4,835,100.40.

This project stood out for its originality, being the first large-scale rural water reticulation scheme in Western Province. It directly improved public health, enhanced education outcomes by increasing school contact hours, and benefited vulnerable groups such as women, children, and expecting mothers. Sustainability was ensured through sixteen water committees across villages, schools, and the health post, responsible for ongoing maintenance via community-collected fees.

Importantly, the initiative was driven by community consultation, led by the Ward Development Committee in collaboration with local stakeholders, including women, traditional leaders, teachers and health personnel. This participatory approach ensured the project addressed priority needs, making safe and clean water accessible to the

most vulnerable while demonstrating a model which could be replicated in other districts facing similar challenges.

Nyimba Town Council was awarded third prize of K20,000 for its innovative revenue mobilization initiative, the Kabanga Revenue Innovation. The Council's submission, titled **"Empowering Communities, Enhancing Accountability,"** highlighted their commitment to participatory planning and budgeting, transparency, and inclusive governance. Through strong collaboration with Ward Development Committees (WDCs), Nyimba Town Council had actively engaged citizens in planning, budgeting, and implementation, ensuring development priorities reflected real community needs.

A key focus of the Council had been leveraging its strategic border location at Chiweza Ward, adjacent to Mozambique, to improve local revenue collection and service delivery. The establishment of the Kabanga Checkpoint had transformed revenue mobilization by capturing untapped cross-border trade. Operated jointly

by the WDC and Council, the checkpoint had generated over ZMW 69,000, funding essential community projects including feeder road rehabilitation, health post supplies and sanitation improvements. This approach linked revenue directly to visible community benefits, enhanced transparency, accountability, and citizen trust.

Nyimba Town Council had also embraced digital transformation, implemented record-keeping systems for development plans and financial transactions. This ensured real-time tracking, improved accuracy, and audit readiness while strengthening community confidence in public finances. Participation was further reinforced through community budget hearings, which provided residents a direct voice in resource allocation decisions. Youth, women, and underrepresented groups were actively involved, fostering inclusivity and reducing conflict over resource allocation.

The Council's approach was grounded in sustainability and scalability. Plans were underway to replicate the Kabanga model at other border checkpoints, develop digital dashboards for real-time planning and revenue tracking and institutionalize participatory budgeting through localized by-laws. Capacity-building initiatives for WDCs and Council staff ensured continued effective management of revenue streams, including those anticipated from mining activities.

Nyimba Town Council's innovation demonstrated a successful model of bottom-up planning, where accountability and local impact combine to achieve sustainable development. By empowering communities to plan together, monitor revenue, and see tangible results, the Council had set a benchmark for participatory governance and inclusive development in Zambia.



Nyimba Town Council Council Secretary (left) Gibson Mweemba, receives the Award after scooping third prize under the Town Council category

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY (WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS)

In the Individual Category of the Women in Local Government Awards, first prize was awarded to Evelyn Phiri, the Chief Community Development Officer from Solwezi Municipal Council. Her winning submission, **"Empowering Women through Skills Training, Financial Inclusion, Literacy, and Early Childhood Education for Children: A Holistic Community Development Model,"** highlighted her commitment to comprehensive community development. Through her innovative approach, Evelyn had empowered women by providing skills training, promoting financial inclusion, and advancing literacy programs, while also ensuring quality early childhood education for children. For her outstanding contribution, she received the first prize of K16,000.

The second prize went to Cllr. Chota Kanungwe Kanyanyamina, Council Chairperson from Kanchibiya Town Council, for her submission on **"Addressing the Problems of Limited Economic Opportunities for Marginalised Groups."** She walked away with a prize of K14,000.

The third prize was awarded to Cllr. Angela Kayekesi, Councillor from Luanshya Municipal Council, whose initiative focused on **"Empowering Boys through Mentorship and Training."** Her outstanding work earned her a prize of K12,000.

The fourth prize was presented to Cllr. Doris Dingombi, Councillor from Manyinga Town Council, for her dual submission on **"Gender Mainstreaming in Local Authorities' Planning and Budgeting"** and **"Menstrual Hygiene for School-Going Girls."** She received a prize of K10,000.

Rounding off the category, the fifth prize was awarded to Cllr. Sylvia Katongo, from Kasama Municipal Council, for her initiatives on **"Creation of Income-Generating Opportunities for Community Members"** and **"Provision of Sufficient Trading Spaces in the Community."** She received a prize of K8,000.

This category was supported by the

Partnerships for Municipal Innovation-Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) Project, underscoring the commitment to advancing gender equality, inclusive leadership, and women's empowerment in local governance.



JOINT 69th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LGAZ AND 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AMICAALL IMMEDIATE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

At the close of the conference, the following declaration was adopted as the immediate conference outcomes:

We, the delegates comprising Mayors/Council Chairpersons, Deputy Mayors/Deputy Council Chairpersons, Aldermen, Councillors, Town Clerks, Council Secretaries, Senior Government Officials, Cooperating Partners, and other Stakeholders meeting as the Joint 69th LGAZ Annual Conference and 22nd AMICAALL General Assembly from 22nd to 25th July 2025 under the theme: ***"innovative municipal financing and service delivery: pathways for sustainable growth and inclusive development"***

Welcoming with appreciation the wise counsel by His Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia during his address to the conference;

Thanking the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Her Excellency Ms. Beatrice Mutali, the Head of Office of the Canadian High Commission in Lusaka, Madam Corry Van Gaal, the Representative of the Germany Embassy, Mr. Akbar Mohabat, the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) President, Cllr. Stofile Bheke for their support and insights:

Acknowledging that climate change requires the cooperation of all stakeholders at international, national and local levels in a concerted effort to ensure an effective and appropriate response;

Considering the progress made so far in the AIDS local response and the need to sustain the positive results achieved, especially in the wake of shrinking resource envelop from key cooperating partners;



“
LGAZ Executive Director.
Ms. Mpatanji Namumba
presenting the Conference
Declarations ”

Welcoming the call by the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema for dialogue between Central Government, Traditional Leadership and Local Government in addressing challenges associated with the management of natural resources;

Approving the call by the Republican President to make property rates affordable as an incentive for compliance and enhanced collection efficiency;

Guided by the call made by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, for Local Authorities to embrace technology for improved service delivery;

Appreciating the call for digitisation in local government operations to among other things, enhance revenue mobilization at the local level.

Appreciating Government's commitment to establishing economic zones in all parts of the Country to promote economic growth;

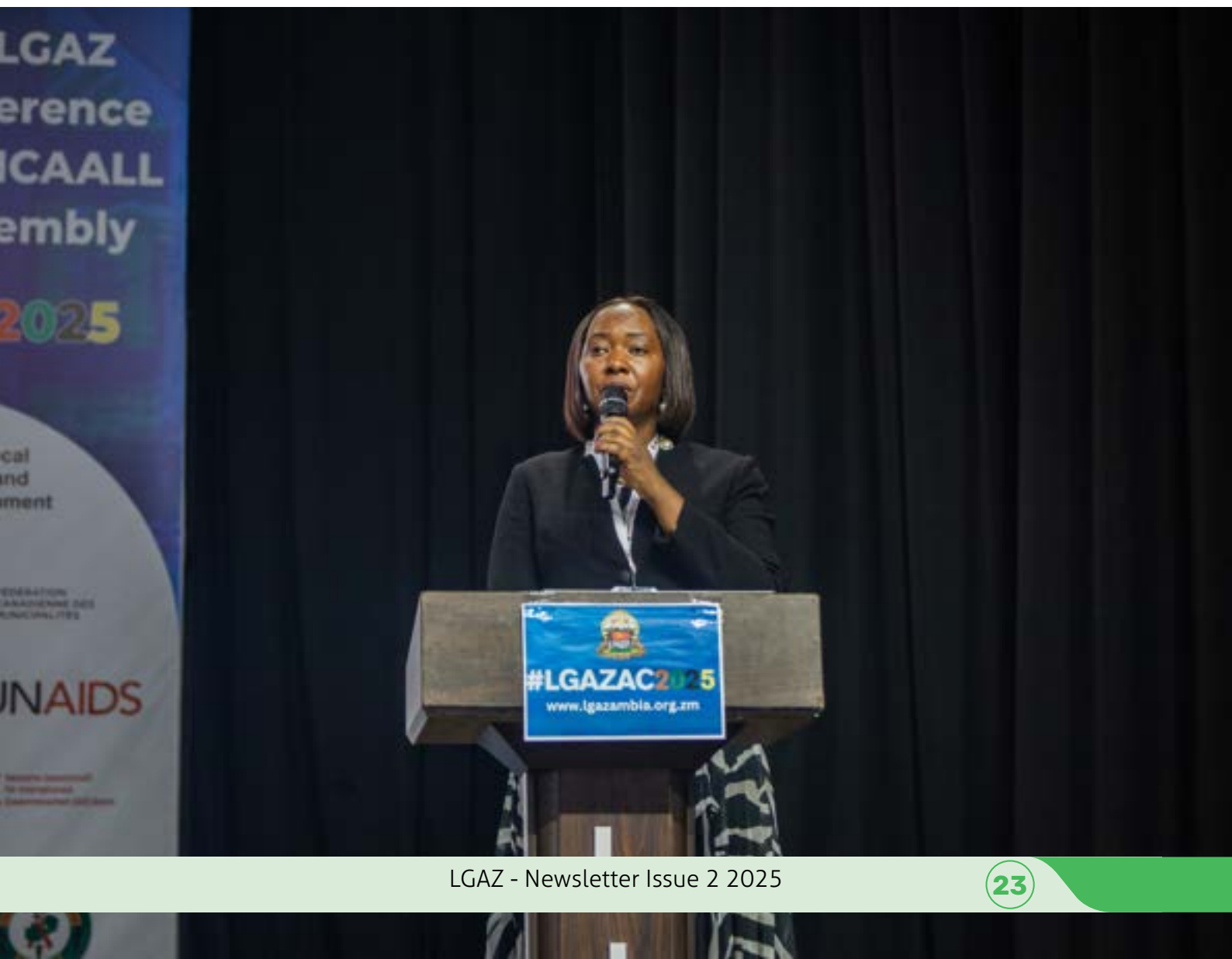
Approving Government's efforts and resolve to decentralise as demonstrated through the progressive provisions of the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture (IFA):

Noting the strategic position of Local Authorities in creating a conducive environment for Local Economic Development (LED) in their localities:

Reiterating our call for government to reinstate the five percent (5%) threshold contribution to the Local Government Equalization Fund from a total amount projected as income taxes for the financial year;

Reiterating our earlier calls for improved conditions of service for both elected and appointed non-unionized officials;

Recognizing the valuable contributions of cooperating partners in enhancing Local Authorities capacity to deliver on their mandate;



NOW RESOLVE THAT:

We place on record our appreciation to the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, yet again for accepting our invitation to grace the Joint 69th Annual Conference of LGAZ and the 22nd General Assembly of AMICAALL, as Guest of Honour.

We reaffirm our commitment to ensure prudent utilisation of public resources including the Local Government Equalisation Fund (LGEF) and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF);

We commit to boost local economic growth and make significant contributions to Zambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by exploring innovative solutions such as opening up economic zones across our respective districts and provinces;

We commit to mobilise own source revenue for improved service delivery by exploring alternative funding sources such as Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) including the issuance of municipal bonds, among others;

1. We commit to leverage technology and digital tools to ensure efficiency in revenue collection and enhance transparency and citizen participation in local governance;

Government be engaged to reinstate the 5% threshold as contribution to the Local Government Equalization Fund from the total projected national income taxes for the financial year;

Government be engaged to fully implement the Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture (2023-2027) in line with the implementation roadmap;

The Association's leadership continues engaging Central Government to review conditions of service for elected and appointed non-unionized officials in Local Authorities;
2. We commit to actively participate in Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) to highlight our efforts in localizing and actualising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, we call upon relevant partners in this regard such as the UN system and the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (SGD unit) to collaborate with the Association in building our capacity to meaningfully contribute to this process;
3. We commit to collaborate with Civil Society Organisations and other relevant stakeholders in enhancing financial accountability and governance;
4. We commit to advancing the tenets of good financial governance by ensuring zero audit queries in the utilization of public resources;
5. We commit to promote gender equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in our operations and decision-making structures and processes to accommodate divergent opinions and fulfill the needs of our people in communities;
6. We commit to incorporate climate change in our annual plans and budgets in a bid to make meaningful contributions to climate action;
7. We commit to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in addressing teenage pregnancies and HIV especially among adolescents;
8. We commit to strengthening the multi-sectoral coordination of HIV and AIDS local response through our District AIDS Coordinating Advisors (DACAs).



***AMICAALL Chairperson Cllr. Champion Tembo
addressing the General Assembly***

AMICAALL SECTION

Cllr. Champion Tembo, Chairperson of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Initiative for Community Action on AIDS At the Local Level (AMICAALL), welcomed delegates to the 22nd General Assembly, highlighting the timely theme, "Innovative Municipal Financing and Service Delivery: Pathways for Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Development." He emphasized that health, particularly in the context of HIV and AIDS, was foundational for inclusive development, and that reaching vulnerable populations, such as adolescents, women, and people living with HIV, was critical for meaningful progress. He provided an overview of Zambia's HIV landscape, noting that as of 2024, 1.3 million people were living with HIV, with 92% knowing their status, 89% on treatment, and 79% achieving viral suppression, attributing these achievements

to strong collaboration among local authorities and stakeholders.

Cllr. Tembo highlighted the Reducing Adolescent Pregnancies and New HIV Infections in Zambia (RAPHIZ) Project piloted in Katete and Monze, aimed at reducing adolescent pregnancies and new HIV infections through community dialogues and engagement with traditional, civic, and religious leaders. Key achievements include creating adolescent-friendly spaces, integrating responsive health services, promoting gender-transformative leadership, and mobilizing communities to challenge harmful norms. He noted early successes, such as increased adolescent uptake of HIV testing and family planning services, improved parent-adolescent communication and strengthened local leadership in youth empowerment and HIV prevention. Emerging interventions such

as long-acting injectable PrEP, HIV self-testing, and integrating mental health and gender-based violence responses were also emphasized as requiring local leadership support.

Dr. Isaac Ahemesah, UNAIDS Country Director, reaffirmed the critical role of local authorities in Zambia's decentralized HIV response, emphasizing that ending AIDS by 2030 requires committed leadership, innovation, and community engagement. He highlighted ongoing challenges, including rising infections among young people, low testing rates, treatment dropouts, and evolving financing pressures. He urged local governments to adopt people-centred approaches, accelerate access to health technologies, ensure essential services are available to all, and address inequalities in rights and protections for vulnerable populations, emphasizing that Mayors and Municipal Leaders are pivotal to sustaining progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Katongo Silwizya, on behalf of National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC), commended LGAZ and AMICAALL for convening the Assembly under a theme aligned with Zambia's Vision 2030. She noted the country's achievements in surpassing the 95-95-95 targets but cautioned that progress remains fragile due to donor dependence. She highlighted NAC's HIV Response Sustainability Roadmap, calling for domestic financing through mechanisms like the National Health Insurance Scheme and locally generated revenue. Ms. Silwizya emphasized the strategic role of District AIDS Coordination Advisors (DACAs) in decentralized HIV coordination and urged Local Authorities to fully integrate and support DACAs to sustain Zambia's HIV response infrastructure.

In conclusion, all speakers underscored the central role of local leadership, partnerships, and innovative financing in sustaining Zambia's HIV response. They urged delegates to move from commitment to action by investing in communities, empowering adolescents and vulnerable populations, and strengthening decentralized, people-centered service delivery. The collective message was clear: when local authorities lead, communities thrive; when communities thrive, development becomes truly inclusive and sustainable.

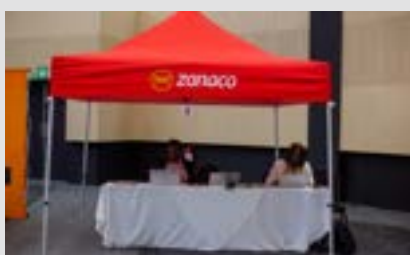


National AIDS Council Director Silwizya presenting her speech during the General Assembly



UNAIDS Country Director Issac Ahemesah addressing delegates during the 22nd General Assembly of AMICAALL

Photo focus





Head Office

4th Floor, New Wing, Civic Centre,
Independence Avenue, Lusaka

E-mail: info@lgazambia.org.zm
Tel/Fax: + 260 211 256766